

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO POST A RULE OF THE STATE ELECTIONS BOARD,
TITLE 183-1, RULES OF STATE ELECTION BOARD, CHAPTER 183-1-14,
ABSENTEE VOTING
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING.**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Election Board, (hereinafter "SEB") proposes to amend SEB rule, Rules 183-1-14-.06(3) *Absentee Voting* (hereinafter "proposed rule").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being distributed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a distribution list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official state holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Elections Division, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E., 8th Floor West Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. These documents will also be available for review on the State Election Board's web page at https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/elections/state_election_board. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Elections Division at (404) 656-2871.

To provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment, a public hearing will be held via webinar. To access the public hearing, please use the following link on the date and time provided below:

September 10, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5763140083444302607>

For members of the public seeking to provide public comment, please use a computer and follow the steps titled "TO USE YOUR COMPUTER'S AUDIO," that are listed in the e-mail. This option allows participants to speak when the meeting is opened up for public comment.

For members of the public seeking to attend the meeting in listen only mode, dial: +1 (562) 247-8422. After dialing in, please dial the Access Code that is provided in the e-mail (757-912-796). All interested parties are invited to attend.

During the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to two minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record on or before Monday, August 31, 2020 to the address below. Written comments must be received on or before Monday, August 31, 2020 and be addressed to Jasmine Shannon by mail to Office of the Secretary of State, Elections Division, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E., 8th Floor West Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334 or by email to jshannon@sos.ga.gov.

The State Election Board will consider the proposed rule during the webinar meeting scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. on September 10, 2020 via the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5763140083444302607>.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This 11th day of August, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Raffensperger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Brad Raffensperger
Chairman, State Elections Board

Posted: August 11, 2020

**SYNOPSIS OF THE PROPOSED RULE OF THE
STATE ELECTIONS BOARD, TITLE 183-1, *RULES OF STATE ELECTION
BOARD*, CHAPTER 183-1-14, *ABSENTEE VOTING***

Purpose: The purpose of the revisions to this rule is to clarify and define the required language to be included in the directions on absentee ballots.

Main Features: The main features of the revisions of this rule are to identify what the voter is required to do to correctly complete the absentee ballot, how to spoil the absentee ballot if a mistake is made or if the voter changes his or her mind about a vote selection, and warnings to the voter of what not to do when completing the absentee ballot.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS OF THE STATE ELECTION BOARD, TITLE 183-1-14, *RULES
OF STATE ELECTION BOARD*, RULE 183-1-14, *ABSENTEE VOTING***

NOTE: Struck through text is proposed to be deleted. Underlined text is proposed to be added.

CHAPTER 183-1-14

Rule 183-1-14-.06(3) Spoiled Absentee Ballots.

(3) The directions that explain how to cast a vote and how to obtain a new ballot after one is spoiled shall appear immediately under the caption on the ballot in substantially the following form as appropriate for that particular primary or election:

To vote, use black or blue ink to mark the ballot ~~blacken the Oval () next to the candidate of your choice.~~ completely fill-in the empty oval to the left of the candidate name or choice in all races you wish to vote. If voting for a Write-In Candidate, completely fill-in the empty oval to the left of the write in selection, then write the name of the write-in candidate in the space provided. ~~To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, manually WRITE his or her name in the write in section and blacken the Oval () next to the write in section. If you desire to vote YES or NO for a PROPOSED QUESTION, blacken the corresponding Oval (). Use only blue or black pen or pencil.~~

Warning, do not use red ink or a felt tip pen to mark the ballot. Do not circle, underline, or mark through ballot choices. Do not use "check" marks or an "X" to mark your ballot. Do not mark more choices per race than allowed. Do not sign, cut, tear, or damage the ballot. Do not vote for more candidates than the number allowed for each specific office. Do not cross out or erase. If you erase or make other marks on the ballot or tear the ballot, your vote may not count.

If you change your mind or make a mistake on a selection, do not attempt to mark through the selection or attempt to erase, write "Spoiled" across the face of the ballot and across the return envelope. Mail or return the spoiled ballot and envelope to your county board of registrars, and a new official absentee ballot will be mailed to you. ~~You may return the ballot by writing "Spoiled" across the face of the ballot and return envelope. You may then mail the spoiled ballot back to your county board of registrars, and you will be issued another official absentee ballot.~~

If you decide to vote in-person, ~~Alternatively, you may surrender the ballot to the poll manager of an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.~~

"I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or another object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law." See O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-284(e), 21-2-285(h), and 21-2-383(a).

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-31, 21-2-284(e), 21-2-285(h), and 21-2-383(a).

COPY OF THE PROPOSED NEW RULE

CHAPTER 183-1-14

Rule 183-1-14-.06(3) Spoiled Absentee Ballots

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To vote, use black or blue ink to mark the ballot. Completely fill-in the empty oval to the left of the candidate name or choice in all races you wish to vote. If voting for a Write-In Candidate, completely fill-in the empty oval to the left of the write in selection, then write the name of the write-in candidate in the space provided.

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Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-31, 21-2-284(e), 21-2-285(h), and 21-2-383(a).

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